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when within fifty yards of the fence, the larger one of the two swooped down at the rabbit, and when he dodged the Eagle pursued him, flying at a height of about three feet above the ground. The rabbit redoubled his speed and made straight for the fence, the Eagle following and both doing their best; the one fleeing for his life, the other pursuing to satisfy the cravings of an empty stomach.

This unequal race was kept up until the fence was reached, the Eagle having gained until she was but two or three feet behind the rabbit. When the rabbit passed through the fence, I expected to see the Eagle give up the pursuit, but she had no intention of doing so, for without slackening her speed she raised herself just enough to clear the fence, and, dropping down behind the rabbit, continued as before. Still I thought that he had a good chance to escape, for he had gained a little ground in passing through the fence, but instead of dodging around through the trees, which is something the rabbit always does, when pursued by dogs, he was so crazed with fear that he ran in

a straight line down through the orchard.

The velocity with which the Eagle flew at this stage of the chase was something wonderful. Fast as the rabbit ran, the "great black shadow" behind him drew nearer and nearer, until, poising an instant over its victim, the Eagle pounced upon him. A short struggle, a cry or two from the rabbit, and all was still. I hastily ran toward the spot, and had approached nearly to the Eagle when it took wing and joined its mate, which was wheeling around above me. After a few turns they mounted up into the heavens and in a short time disappeared.

The rabbit was a large "Jack," and was in a perfectly healthy condition. A row of deep gashes on either side of the backbone marked the spot where the Eagle had struck him with its talons, and his head was almost severed from the body, the throat being cut almost as cleanly as could have been done with a knife. The gash extended from the jaw bone on one side of the neck, to the ear on the other.

Echoes from the Field.

The Old-Squaw and Fulvous Tree Ducks at Alviso, Cal. During the first week in February of this year I received from Alviso, in this [Santa Clara] county, a specimen of the Long-tailed Duck or Old-Squaw, a female in winter plumage. So far as I know this is the first instance of this species being taken in this county, nor am I aware that it has ever been reported from any point on San Francisco Bay.

I have seen at the house of a friend in San Jose a Fulvous Tree Duck, also taken at Alviso several years ago. I believe that this species has not been recorded from this county before and is, at any rate, a rare visitor here.

F. H. HOLMES, Berryessa, Cal., April 15, 1899.

A Record for Los Angeles County, Cal. I have to report an addition to Mr. Grinnell's "List of Birds of the Pacific Slope of Los Angeles Co.," having taken four males and two females of *Loxia curvirostra minor*. They were working on the cones of pines along Lincoln Ave., Pasadena, and when disturbed by the report of a gun, were readily recalled by imitating the note of the female. Different members of the Club have looked sharply for this Crossbill among the pines on Wilson's Peak during the past few years without success, but now the dry year and consequent lack of food, brings them to our very door.

F. S. DAGGETT, Pasadena, Cal., Dec. 26, 1898.

Unusual Lining of a Red Bellied Hawk's Nest and Sonoma County Notes. On April 14, 1899 I secured a set $\frac{1}{3}$ Red-bellied Hawk and was surprised to notice a nest of the Californian Bush Tit used as part of the lining of the hawk's nest. It was torn open about four inches from the bottom and as the shells of several eggs

were stuck to the feathers inside, the Bush Tit's nest must have been taken from the tree by the hawks and torn open afterward. On April 7 the hawk's nest held two eggs but the Bush Tit's nest was not then a part of the lining.

During the winter of 1896 I saw what I supposed was a Mountain Bluebird, but not until last winter was I positive that *S. arctica* could be placed on my list of Sonoma Co. birds. On December 8 I saw two and they were common in January and February, and several were seen on March 9. They remained in large open fields and seemed to find plenty of food as a male shot on Jan. 18 was in fine condition.

In the March-April BULLETIN Mr. Slevin speaks of seeing some Swallows at Point Reyes on Dec. 31 which he took to be the Violet-green. I think the birds were Tree Swallows as I have never seen the Violet-green until late in February, while the Tree Swallow has been noted every month in the year. In winter they can often be seen flying about some warm springs along the foothills at the edge of the marsh off San Pablo Bay.

HENRY W. CARRIGER, Sonoma, Cal., April 16, 1899.

Eastern Junco and White-throated Sparrow in California. I have the pleasure to record the capture of three specimens of *Junco hyemalis* in California. The first, a male I took at Battle Creek on October 23, 1898. The other two were found at St. Helena, a male on the first of last February and a female three days later. Through the kindness of Mr. W. E. Bryant I may record four specimens of *Zonotrichia albicollis* for this state. One was taken at Los Angeles, Feb. 25, 1897 and is mounted in Mr. Bryant's collection. Three taken at Santa Rosa now belong to me. Dates of two are Oct. 13, 1898 and Nov. 23, 1898. The third one has not yet been forwarded to me. There appears to be no difference between these and eastern specimens of *Z. albicollis*.

RICHARD C. McGREGOR, Palo Alto, Cal.

Notes from Alameda, Cal. WESTERN BLUEBIRD: For the last seven or eight years I have not met this never common bird as formerly. On frequent trips through the county and Contra Costa County in spring I have noticed from three to ten on each trip during the past five years and at times saw none at all. It is a sparse breeder in Alameda County. An acquaintance of mine took a set of eggs in this town about fifteen years ago.

The last Dwarf Hermit Thrush was seen, rather heard, April 6, a few miles from here. It was unusually common this winter. One made itself at home about my woodshed and became quite tame, eating grubs and bore worms when I was splitting wood.

Western Robins were very scarce up to January. In February they were quite abundant, singing freely. I heard one singing in December.

One Varied Thrush noted April 12, they have nearly all departed now. Observed the first one on Sept. 27.

A few Western Golden-crowned Kinglets wintered here in the live oaks and evergreens. I observed them occasionally from October to March. The Ruby-crowns were common, as usual, this winter, but not gregarious like the Golden-crowns.

On Sept. 27 I heard the "call" notes of a Russet-backed Thrush, and although the bird remained hidden, I knew I was not deceived by its indistinguishable voice. The late date is commentable.

Nuthatches are rarely observed any year. Perhaps they do not occur at all some years in this immediate locality. They were often seen this winter. A Red-breasted was the first one seen, Aug. 30. Took one Sept. 5 and one Oct. 10, and a Slender-billed Nov. 11. The last birds seen were in the middle of February. All the birds ever seen here were seen within a radius of 300 yards.

I have observed the Western Winter Wren here only several times. Took one Oct. 6.

Plain Titmice are fast disappearing and are growing quite uncommon. Further back in the hills is where civilization has driven them. Young were found in two nests April 8.

The American Pipit in winter appears to be as much at home in town as the urban English Sparrow. After a rain they can be found singly or in small bunches along the pavements in the densest part of town looking for worms.

Took a ♂ California Creeper Jan. 14, making the first one I ever saw in the county.

Parkman's and Vigor's Wrens are seen almost the year around. Last winter (1897-8) a Parkman's remained about my garden and the winter before last (1896-7) a Vigor's wintered near by. Neither species passed this winter here.

In January I took a ♂ Tule Wren from the salt marsh near here. Several of the crown feathers and one wing primary (secondary) were pure white.

Peculiar Eggs of California Shrike and Other Notes. In the San Joaquin Valley about twenty-eight miles southeast of Stockton, on May 23, 1898, I found two nests of the California Shrike in a grove of locusts near the road, both containing eggs partly incubated. One egg in the set of four is pure white, with a faint greenish tint, marked at the larger end with a black scrawl, and over the surface are a few obscure specks of light brown. The other three are typical specimens although one is lightly marked. The set (?) of two also contains an almost unmarked specimen.

On June 15, 1897 near Soquel, Santa Cruz Co., Cal. I took a nest of the Western Wood Pewee containing three fresh eggs. On examining the nest after reaching camp I was surprised to find two more eggs beneath the lining, in which the contents were partly dried. They differ much in size and color from the other eggs and do not seem to have been laid by the same individuals.

MILTON S. RAY, San Francisco, Cal.

Notes from Marin and San Benito Counties, Cal. In BULLETIN No. 2 are some interesting notes from different sections of the state concerning the appearance of birds unusual in the localities mentioned. It strikes me that it would be beneficial to the students of ornithology if such notes were supplemented by additional ones from persons who have been in position to make observations upon the species mentioned in different localities at corresponding dates, as this would assist very materially in studying distribution and habits. Accordingly I will endeavor to make a start in this line by adding my notes to those of the last issue.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*). Mr. Otto Emerson speaks of these birds having appeared in Alameda Co. in September 1898 and mentions their occurrence in Marin County. At that time they were very abundant here, the first having been observed on Aug. 29 when two or three were seen. A few days later they were very numerous, frequenting almost altogether at this time the fir and cypress trees on the ranges. In October they became less abundant and toward the middle of the month were found feeding among the live oak trees, even in the valley near the house. By Nov. 1 they had all disappeared. This bird has never to my knowledge, been recorded in Marin Co. before. I saw a few in San Mateo on Nov. 6.

LEWIS' WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes torquatus*). These birds breed to a greater or less extent, seemingly depending upon the season, at Paicines, San Benito Co., Cal., where we have taken several sets. On the first of last October a large number of immigrants must have come in as they were far more numerous than those breeding there would account for by natural increase. My brother and I collected a beautiful series at this time of birds of the year in different plumages, some of which were exceedingly interesting.

AMERICAN CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra minor*). At times these birds pass through Marin Co. in numbers, stopping for a short while to feed, often on the Tojon berries. As they are very shy and generally frequent the tops of the tall Douglas firs on the higher ranges they are difficult to obtain, but specimens have been taken on two occasions by C. A. Allen. Some years elapse without any being observed, but this does not prove that they have not been here, as their usual feeding grounds are seldom visited by any observer.

WESTERN EVENING GROSBEAK (*Coccothraustes v. montanus*). On October 14, 1898 a ♂ of this species was shot near Point Reyes Station, Marin Co., and sent to me. Their occurrence in this county has been reported to me before but as no specimens had been taken the reports were not verified.

MYRTLE WARBLER (*Dendroica coronata*). This bird is much more common in California than most people have been led to suppose. There are a number in our collection from Marin and San Benito counties, though we have only collected them casually. I have seen a good many that have not been taken and find that at close range they can be sufficiently recognized by the superloral and postocular streaks to enable one to be moderately accurate in identification. That is to say, if a person were to shoot all that he saw with this characteristic he would find the majority of his birds to be *coronata*.

SEX OF WINTER RESIDENTS. It would be interesting to hear from different localities in regard to which sex predominates in some of the winter residents. For instance, here at San Geronimo, nearly every Red-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus ruber*) taken is a ♀ especially so in midwinter. All of the Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*) taken here have been males. Almost all of the Dwarf Hermit Thrushes (*Hylocichla aonala schkæ*) also have been males, only three that I know of having proved to be females, one of these being a partial albino. We have several Thick-billed Sparrows taken here at different times and all ♀. These last are present some winters, but not all. How are the birds above mentioned in other localities?

JOSEPH MAILLIARD, San Geronimo, Cal.

An Account of the Taking of Four Sets of Eggs of the Ivory Gull.

FOUR eggs of the Ivory Gull (*Larus leucocephalus*) were brought home by Gustaf Kolthoff, naturalist to the Nathorst Swedish Expedition in the summer and early autumn of 1898, having been received from Captain Kjældsen of the ship Frithiof in exchange. Mr. Kolthoff writes "When we were going from King Carls-Land to Franz Josef-Land we met on the way the steamer Frithiof, owner the old ice traveller Captain Kjældsen, who had been there with the Wellman Expedition. Captain Kjældsen told me that when returning and sailing close to the coast they had, near Cape Oppolzer on the S. W. of Franz Josef-Land in 80.04 N. latitude to about 57° E. longitude, visited a little, low-lying, unnamed island, situated very nearly south of Cape Oppolzer, upon which were breeding a large number of 'Ice Gulls' (Ivory Gulls). The nests were on the flat ground, built of green moss, and

only in four cases was there still a single egg,—in all the rest were young, very small, half-grown and none so grown that they could use their wings. The four eggs were all strongly incubated. This was on August 4 and upon the 12th we met the steamer and I obtained all that Captain Kjældsen had—four eggs and one young bird. As I understood Captain Kjældsen the Wellman Expedition had left his ship before it visited Cape Oppolzer." Mr. Kolthoff adds "On the Spitzbergen and King Carls-Land coasts the Ivory Gulls had their nests on high cliffs where it is nearly impossible to reach them." Two of the above eggs are in the Upsal Museum and the two others in my collection. The latter measure 2.29x1.69 and 2.25x1.68 inches.

A. W. JOHNSON, Waterside, Eng.

(The BULLETIN, though devoted to Pacific Coast ornithology, gladly gives space to the above notes on this rare and beautiful Gull. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Cooper Club, and is now enjoying a sojourn in his old home. ED.)